



from the desk of
REPRESENTATIVE DICK DODGE

Dear Neighbor:

This year's session brought forth several challenges and issues. With little money and declining state revenues, legislators were left with some very tough and difficult decisions.

My goal this session was to support and vote for legislation which did four things: create and protect Hoosiers' jobs, not create new tax increases, live within our means and allow Hoosiers to vote for permanent property tax caps on the November ballot.

Several weeks of hard work, discussions and debates took place to protect Indiana and outperform neighboring states, but I stuck to my four goals.

During the summer and fall I'll be participating in committee and summer study meetings. I am dedicated to protecting our wallets and personal liberties.

It's my honor to represent you in our state Capitol and I will continue to do my best to improve Hoosier quality of life.

Sincerely,

Dick Dodge

Rep. Dick Dodge



200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
INDIANA HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

LET'S STAY CONNECTED.

STATEHOUSE OFFICE

1-800-382-9841

1-317-232-9815

E-MAIL ADDRESS

h51@in.gov

E-NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

www.in.gov/h51

MAILING ADDRESS

200 W. Washington St.

Indianapolis, IN 46204

2010

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DICK DODGE

DICK DODGE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • HOUSE DISTRICT 51



CREATING HOOSIER JOBS

I voted for legislation that authorizes the use of public-private partnerships for the construction of the Illiana Expressway in Northwest Indiana and the Ohio River Bridges project in Southern Indiana. These two projects have the potential to create more than 10,000 jobs. Other job friendly legislation I voted for was the New Employer Tax Credit which allows new businesses that locate in Indiana starting January 1, 2010 to receive a tax credit for two years equal to 10% of the wages paid for each newly created job. I will continue to support initiatives that make Indiana an attractive environment for job growth.



HELPING HOOSIER FARMERS

I voted to save Hoosier farmers nearly \$20 million on their property tax bills in 2011 by improving the system for assessing farm land. Farm land assessments will now be based on an adjusted six-year average that eliminates the highest value over the six-year period.

CONTROLLING SPENDING



Another focus I had this session was to make certain that there would be no new tax increases. Unlike Washington, D.C., I believe the State of Indiana is making prudent fiscal decisions. In my opinion, it is simply not an option to raise Hoosier taxes due to our state government's budget shortcomings. We first must live within our means.

Increasing taxes should never be our first resort, but rather our last. I was thrilled that there were no new taxes passed this session.

"In my opinion... we first must live within our means."



SUPPORTING SCHOOL FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

I voted to help schools redirect up to \$60 million to help fill gaps that came as a result of the state funding reductions. I believe this additional money will help with teacher job retention during these difficult economic times.



BOOSTING SMALL BUSINESS

I voted to delay a \$350 million tax increase on nearly 80,000 Hoosier employers, more than 72,000 of which were small businesses with less than 50 employees. This tax increase was passed last year without my support. I also voted to remove the employee threshold on the EDGE tax credit for job retention. Previously the threshold required an employer to have at least 35 employees in order to be eligible for the tax credit. Now small businesses with at least 10 employees will also be eligible for this incentive.



PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

I voted for legislation that I believe will help Hoosiers to protect themselves on the commute to and from work. Starting July 1, most employers will be prohibited from having policies that prevent their employees from keeping a legally owned firearm locked in their vehicle while they are at work. Governmental units will also be prohibited from denying a licensed gun owner their 2nd Amendment right during a time of a declared emergency. Additionally, I voted to keep certain personal information about Hoosiers with licenses to carry a handgun confidential.